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act on such service as the exigencies of the government may require.

4. That the President be authorised to order out, from time to time, such detachments of the militia, as in his opinion the public service may require.

5. That all the vessels not now in service belonging to the navy and worthy of repair, be immediately fitted up and put in commission.

6. That it is expedient to permit our merchant-vessels, owned exclusively by resident citizens, and commanded and navigated solely by citizens, to arm, under proper regulations to be prescribed by law, in self-defence, against all unlawful proceedings towards them on the high seas.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, JAN. 7.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, as organ of the Commissioners, delivered the following Speech on the part of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent :

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"We are commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to express to you the deep sorrow which he feels in announcing to you the continuance of his Majesty's lamented indisposition, and the unhappy disappointment of those hopes of his Majesty's early recovery, which had been cherished by the dutiful affection of his family, and the loyal attachment of his people.

"The Prince Regent has directed copies of the last Reports of her Majesty the Queen's Council to be laid before you, and he is satisfied that you will adopt such measures as the present melancholy exigency may appear to require.

"In securing a suitable and ample provision for the support of his Majesty's Royal Dignity, and for the attendance upon his Majesty's sacred Person, during his illness, the Prince Regent rests assured, that you will also bear in mind the indispensable duty of continuing to preserve for his Majesty the facility of resuming the personal exercise of his Royal Authority, in the happy event of his recovery, so earnestly desired by the wishes and the prayers of his family and his subjects.

"The Prince Regent directs us to signify to you, the satisfaction with which his Royal Highness has observed, that the measures which have been pursued for the defence and security of the Kingdom of Portugal, have proved completely effectual; and that on the several occasions

which the British or Portuguese troops have been engaged with the enemy, the reputation already acquired by them has been fully maintained.

"The successful and brilliant enterprise which terminated in the surprise, in Spanish Estremadura, of a French corps, by a detachment of the allied army, under Lieutenant-General Hill, is highly creditable to that distinguished officer, and to the troops under his command, and has contributed materially to obstruct the designs of the enemy in that part of the Peninsula.

"The Prince Regent is assured, that while you reflect with pride and satisfaction on the conduct of his Majesty's troops, and of the Allies, in these various and important services, you will render justice to the consummate judgment and skill displayed by General Lord Viscount Wellington, in the direction of the campaign. In Spain the spirit of the people remains unsubdued; and the system of warfare so peculiarly adapted to the actual condition of the Spanish nation, has been recently extended and improved, under the advantages which result from the operations of the allied armies on the frontier, and from the countenance and assistance of his Majesty's navy on the coast. Although the great exertions of the enemy have in some quarters been attended with success, His Royal Highness is persuaded, that you will admire the perseverance and gallantry manifested by the Spanish armies. Even in those provinces principally occupied by the French forces, new energy has arisen among the people; and the increase of difficulty and danger has produced more connected efforts of general resistance.

"The Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, commands us to express his confident hope that you will enable him to continue to afford the most effectual aid and assistance in the support of the contest, which the brave nations of the Peninsula still maintain with such unabated zeal and resolution.

"His Royal Highness commands us to express his congratulations on the success of the British arms in the island of Java.

"The Prince Regent trusts that you will concur with His Royal Highness in approving the wisdom and ability with which this enterprise, as well as the capture of the islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, has been conducted under the immediate direction of the Governor-General

of India; and that you will applaud the decision, gallantry, and spirit conspicuously displayed in the late operations of the brave army under the command of that distinguished officer, Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, so powerfully and ably supported by his Majesty's naval forces.

"By the completion of this system of operations, great additional security will have been given to the British commerce and possessions of the East Indies, and the Colonial power of France will have been entirely extinguished.

"His Royal Highness thinks it expedient to recommend to your attention the propriety of providing such measures for the future government of the British possessions in India, as shall appear from experience, and upon mature deliberation, to be calculated to secure their internal prosperity, and to derive from those flourishing dominions the utmost degree of advantage to the commerce and revenue of the United Kingdom.

"We are commanded by the Prince Regent to acquaint you, that while His Royal Highness regrets that various important subjects of difference with the Government of the United States of America still remain unadjusted—the difficulties which the affair of the Chesapeake frigate had occasioned, have been finally removed; and we are directed to assure you, that in the further progress of the discussions with the United States, the Prince Regent will continue to employ such means of conciliation as may be consistent with the honour and dignity of his Majesty's crown, and with the due maintainance of the maritime and commercial rights and interests of the British empire.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"His Royal Highness has directed the Estimates for the service of the current year to be laid before you. He trusts that you will furnish him with such supplies as may be necessary to enable him to continue the contest in which his Majesty has engaged, with that spirit and exertion which will afford the best prospect of its successful termination.

"His Royal Highness commands us to recommend that you should resume the consideration of the state of the finances of Ireland, which you had commenced in the last Session of Parliament. He has the satisfaction to inform you, that the improved receipt of the revenue of Ireland in the last, as compared with the preceding year, confirms the belief that the depression which that revenue had expe-

rienced, is to be attributed to accidental and temporary causes.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"The Prince Regent is satisfied that you entertain a just sense of the arduous duties which His Royal Highness has been called upon to fulfil, in consequence of his Majesty's continued indisposition.

"Under this severe calamity, His Royal Highness derives the greatest consolation from his reliance on your experienced wisdom, loyalty, and public spirit, to which in every difficulty he will resort, with a firm confidence, that through your assistance and support, he shall be enabled, under the blessings of Divine Providence, successfully to discharge the important functions of the high trust reposed in him, and in the name and on the behalf of his beloved Father, and revered Sovereign, to maintain unimpaired the prosperity and honour of the nation."

Sir Francis Burdett moved the following Address, which was only supported by three votes, himself and Lord Cochrane, as tellers, and Mr. Guthbert, a solitary AYE.

"We, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, return your Royal Highness the humble thanks of this house, for the most gracious speech delivered by the Lords Commissioners, by your Royal Highness' command.

"We assure your Royal Highness that we shall, without delay, take into our serious consideration all the matters to which your Royal Highness has been pleased to direct our attention, and endeavour to adopt such measures as are best calculated to meet the exigencies of the times.

"But we should deem it a failure in our duty, were we, on this solemn occasion, to omit expressing to your Royal Highness, with a frankness suggested by a due sense of our functions, the sentiments we entertain on the present situation of our country, and to point out to your Royal Highness, the remedy, which, in our opinion, is called for by the evil already experienced, and by the dangers which appear to be impending.

"We always hear with great satisfaction, though not with surprize, that our countrymen whether by land or sea, maintain the character of their ancestors; but we cannot at the same time, dismiss from our minds all consideration of the little effect with which their valour has been exerted, and in the cause in which it has been displayed.

"We lament to see nothing characteristic of that love of freedom for which this nation has been so highly renowned in the world. In looking through the history of the last eighteen years of war, we find the valour and resources of our country in no instance employed in the defence or restoration of freedom, but almost constantly in endeavours to prevent the oppressed from becoming free, or to re-plunge them into slavery, to reharden the grasp of despotism, and to sharpen the half-blunted fangs of persecution, so that that the British flag, formerly the dread of tyranny, appears, through this long and disgraceful period, to have waved only in hostility to the liberties and happiness of mankind.

"From a line of conduct so repugnant to justice, to the common sense, and common feeling of men, the natural results have ensued. In those distant regions, where ignorance and feebleness have rendered the people an easy prey to successive usurpation, we have uniformly been conquerors, and in overturning one despotism, have for the purposes necessary to the maintenance of corruption at home, uniformly erected another in its stead; while in all those countries, where men have attained a knowledge of their rights, and have possessed courage to avenge themselves on their oppressors, we have found few and treacherous friends, and many and implacable foes.

"The sovereigns, our allies, subdued not less by that abuse of their power, which we have endeavoured to support, than by the arms of their and our enemy, have either been driven from their thrones, or have abandoned our cause, and disclaimed our connection, as the only means of retaining even a scanty portion of their former dominions, so that after having stirred up, in hostility to freedom, almost every sovereign of the continent of Europe, after having expended hundreds of millions in the support of that formidable but unprincipled league, we were, at last, reduced to contend alone with the Conqueror of that Continent, upon a spot, which we have only assisted to desolate and ravage, in defence of sovereigns, who, not being able to rely on the affections of their subjects, have sought their personal safety in abdication, or in flight.

"To the regret of having seen the national resources exhausted in the prosecution of measures, so fraught at once with wickedness and folly, we have not, however, to add the shame of having seen the

people of this kingdom voluntarily lend their aid to those measures—their sense of justice and love of freedom revolted at so inhuman a crusade, which at the outset they condemned, and against which many had the virtue openly to protest, well knowing that a war against freedom in other countries, was in reality a war against the people of England themselves. To counteract the effect of opinions so obviously just, a system of terror was resorted to, false alarms were excited, spies and informers were hired, plots were invented, constructive treasons were revived, and new-fangled treasons enacted, the safe guards of personal liberty were removed, fortresses under the name of barracks, were established throughout the land, and the fame, and the person of every man, were placed at the absolute disposal of those who, calling themselves the servant of the King, were, in fact, the agents of that rapacious and haughty Oligarchy, who had long fattened on the miseries of the country, and who in the progress of the principles of liberty, sow the seeds of a destruction of their ill-gotten power.

"Under the operation of this system we have beheld much that remained of our liberties wholly swept away; we have seen practised, under the name of collecting a revenue, and in the guise of legal proceedings, acts of oppression and insult, which our forefathers would have perished rather than endure. The dwellings, the books, the most private recesses and concerns of Englishmen, once so sacred, are now exposed to the intrusion and inquisitorial scrutiny of numberless mercenary agents, appointed and removable at the pleasure of the crown. Financial rapacity breaks in between landlord and tenant, and in violation of every principle of property, the Crown is become co-proprietor, in every man's estate, having a prior claim upon his tenant; under the name of redeeming the land tax, there is a general confiscation of landed property, while in the form of a stamp duty, it seizes the bequests of the dead in their passage to the living; so at last there is no man in England who can be said to be the owner or proprietor of any thing, the government having by degrees assumed a controul and mastership over property of every description.

"There was a time in English history, when the extortions of an Empson and a Dudley, though under the sanction of an act of parliament, brought the principals to the block, and consigned their subalterns

agents to public vengeance in the pillory; but now we have many Empsons and Dudleys, in every county, who under the name of surchargers, supervisors, &c. inflict amerccements and fines at their pleasure, the parties so emerged being denied not only an appeal to a jury, but even the aid of Counsel or Attorney to speak in their defence before those fiscal Tribunals, which, to the terror of the people, are established in every corner of the land.

"In exact proportion to the increase of these extortions have we seen the increase of the military force, and the multiplication of means calculated to divest the soldier of all fellow-feeling with the citizen. Cooped up in barracks and depots, flogged for the most trifling offences, he loses, by degrees, all regard for those rights of which he is deprived, all attachment for that constitution out of the pale of which he is placed, and becomes the passive and unconscious instrument of tyrannical coercion, mistrustful of the effect of English feeling, which it seems to have been feared English soldiers would still retain; many thousands of German and other foreign mercenaries have been introduced and placed on our military establishment, with privileges not possessed by the troops of our own country; whole districts of England and large portions of the English army have been put under the command of German officers, and the more effectually to estrange the people from the native soldiers, the latter have, in many instances, been compelled to assume a German garb; the militia, heretofore regarded as the sole constitutional force of the country, upon the principle, that as men had most interest so they would be most stout in defending their liberties and properties, the militia having been long perverted from its legitimate purpose, has at last, by the interchange of the English and Irish militias, been converted, with respect to the two countries, into the too convenient instrument of reciprocal oppression; and especially with regard to Ireland, where the just remonstrances and complaints of a generous, a gallant, and long-suffering people, have uniformly been met with repulsion and disdain.

"In the institution of the Local Militia, we behold all the severities of a military conscription, without its impartiality, and without a chance of its rewards; and in the assumed prerogative of calling upon the people to perform military duty under that system of discipline which is now in

practise, we see every man in England, when commanded to take up arms, in what is termed the defence of his country, liable to experience the degradation and torture of the lash.

"That a people formerly so proud of their liberties would be silent under such an accumulation of oppression, and that the communication of indignant feelings would not, in the end, produce resistance, was too much for even an insolent and obdurate oligarchy to expect—therefore the Press, never the last to suffer when freedom is assailed, has become, in proportion to the augmentation of these oppressions, more and more an object of jealousy and of vengeance. And after having seen the use that has been made of the unconstitutional assumption of power by the Attorney-General to file *ex-officio* informations, to accuse, to arraign, to amerce, to hold to bail, to ruin, or to pardon whomsoever he pleases; after having seen that this accuser, an officer of the crown, removable at its pleasure, has also the power of demanding a Jury, not taken out of an impartial pannel, but selected by another officer of the crown; after having seen a Judge so eager to convict, as openly to anticipate guilt, before hearing the evidence in defence; after having seen the sentences in cases of political libel, gradually become more and more severe, till they have far surpassed in severity those for the greater part of felonies, including long imprisonment, heavy fines, banishment to distant jails, and confinement in solitary cells, going to the almost certain ruin, and the probable death of the persecuted parties; after having seen all this, and taking a view of the number of persons now suffering, we cannot, we confess, see much room for repeating the congratulation of our fore-fathers, upon the abolition of the cruel and accursed Court of Star-chamber, which did, without a Jury, that which is now done by means of a Jury chosen by an officer of the crown; an alteration which only serves to screen a corrupt political Judge from his due share of public odium, and to deprive the victim of that public compassion, which is always called forth in behalf of those who suffer from undisguised tyranny.

"To particularize the fatal effects of this course of misrule, would, if it were possible, be useless, they being too visible in the multiplied embarrassments and abject state of the country; whether in its affairs at home or abroad; but, to the

great cause of all these evils we cannot, without a shameful neglect of our duty, refrain from beseeching the attention of your Royal Highness, who will at once perceive that we allude to the want of a real representation of the people in the Commons House of Parliament. With a fair representation the people are never in danger, because from whatever quarter they feel grievance approaching, here is their Court of Appeal, here their means of immediate redress: without such a representation the people can never be safe; they have no Court of Appeal, no friend in Government, no means of redress or protection.

"To the want of such a representation, to the want of a House of Commons emanating from the people's choice, and speaking their sentiments, we owe the eighteen years of war against France, lest the example should produce a reform of corruption and abuses at home.

"To the want of such a representation we owe the hundreds of millions of debt, which have debased our currency, sapped the foundations of covenants, annihilated confidence, and added new crimes to our already sanguinary criminal code.

"To the want of such a representation we owe the unpunished rapacity of prize-courts; the insults and injuries innumerable against friendly nations; the ruin of commerce and manufactures; and the countless number of paupers, whose state, when contrasted with the luxury proceeding from the public money lavished on placemen and pensioners, would be beyond human endurance, without the overawing aspect of military force.

"If any thing be yet wanting to work conviction of those truths, we implore your Royal Highness to cast your eyes over the Continent of Europe. Not a Sovereign has there been dethroned—not a State has there been overthrown, where the way of the Conqueror was not paved by corruption in the government, and by the tyranny which corruption never fails, sooner or later, to call to its support.

"And when we see the same causes at work amongst ourselves—when we hear the worst sort of corruption not only not denied, but unblushingly avowed and vindicated, upon the ground of its being as notorious as the sun at noon day, it were presumption unparalleled to hope that similar effects will not follow.

"To put an end, therefore, to corruption and abuses, by a Constitutional Reformation of the Commons house of parlia-

ment, appears to us to be the only means of reconciling the people to their government, of rekindling their zeal, of invigorating their exertions, and of ensuring the independence of the country, and the safety and stability of the throne."

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

Distress in Liverpool.

We have great pleasure in informing our readers that the fund raising for the relief of the poor is already distributing. The good effects of the system of inquiry, which the society for bettering the condition of the poor have for some time been silently pursuing with the greatest perseverance and industry, is now displaying its extent and utility. Under their direction the town has been divided into ten districts; and a sufficient number of visitors have made a return of the state of the poor in these districts, as complete as the continual fluctuations in their situation will admit; one district is regularly relieved by tickets for coals and provisions, every morning and evening, and no person can receive relief whose case is not previously inquired into, and regularly registered: the assurance which is thus given of the just distribution of relief to those who are really suffering, will have its due weight with the considerate and humane. On Monday, two districts were relieved, containing about 419 families; two other districts were relieved on Tuesday; and on Wednesday morning, a fifth district, containing upwards of 700 families, receiving the sustenance and support which their fellow townsmen have generously afforded them. The picture of distress which is presented to those who are actively engaged in the benevolent work, is indeed almost incredible; and it is impossible that any who have it in their power to contribute to their relief, can refuse to assist in alleviating such accumulated misery and distress. The workmen in the employ of Mr. John Foster, Mr. Hetherington, and several other persons have raised a contribution in aid of the fund; and we are informed that their very laudable example is about to be followed by a number of other persons in similar situations; in addition also to this display of feeling for their suffering brethren, we have to add, that the labourers employed at the docks have, with a generosity but seldom displayed, made a voluntary offer of dividing the employment at the docks, with the labouring poor who are out of employ, and working alternately week for